

STEREO MOC Status Report  
Time Period: 2015:327 - 2015:333

STEREO Ahead (STA) Status:

1. The following Ground System anomalies/events occurred during this reporting period:

- On day 330, during the DSS-63 support, turbo decoder lock was lost intermittently between 1107z and 1118z. This anomaly resulted in the loss of 14 frames of real-time and SSR data.
- On day 333, during the DSS-43 support, the track ended 1.6 hours early at 2208z due to Canberra complex wide switching anomaly. The MOC disabled the SSR early; however, the station stopped tracking seven minutes before the RTL completed. This anomaly resulted in the loss of up to 49 minutes of SSR data and 1.6 hours of commanding and tracking data. See DR# C111552 for more information.

2. The following spacecraft/instrument events occurred during this week. The Ahead observatory operated nominally during this week resuming operations on the HGA main lobe riding along a one degree offset to prevent overheating of the HGA feed assembly which was at 119 degrees C with the HGA angle at 7.1 degrees and increasing, with respect to the spacecraft-Sun line. After 15 months of side lobe and superior solar conjunction operations, on day 321, November 17<sup>th</sup>, nominal daily science operations resumed.

- On day 327, the G&C parameters, version 1.3.4, release was loaded to C&DH EEPROM. The release contained changes for returning to nominal daily science operations that are already in use in RAM. All G&C parameters were dumped from RAM and EEPROM for verification.
- On day 329, the SWAVES SSR science partition (#13) filled and began overwriting at 0249z for 18.1 hours. On day 331, SWAVES record rate was decreased to 1.746 kbps (rate C) at 2000z to preserve data continuity.
- Processing status of the in-situ instrument space weather data recorded during the 15 months of side lobe operations:

This week, the MOC has completed processing of the 15 months of in-situ instrument space weather data with the associated data products available on the MOC STEREO Data Server and GSFC SSC websites. However, a final level zero file (.fin version) for each day for each instrument is being created.

- The average daily science data return for Ahead, with the HGA on the main lobe riding along a one degree offset, was 3.5 Gbits during this week.

#### STEREO Behind (STB) Status:

1. The following Ground System anomalies/events occurred during this reporting period:

- None.

2. Detailed status of the recovery activities to restore operations from the Behind loss of communication anomaly, which occurred on day 2014-274, are listed below. Recovery operations will resume on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

- The Behind observatory entered superior solar conjunction at the 2.0 degree SPE angle on day 022. Recovery efforts resumed post solar conjunction on day 124, May 4<sup>th</sup> through day 178, June 27<sup>th</sup>, as the spacecraft had cleared solar interference for LGA communications. The Failure Review Board recommendations were implemented consisting of battery state of charge recovery and powering on the downlink carrier. The Green Bank Radio Telescope and the Arecibo Observatory also observed the carrier recovery tracks. To date, no downlink signal has been detected from the Behind observatory since the anomaly occurred. Due to Behind's retrograde motion causing it to re-enter the region of solar interference, recovery operations have been suspended and will resume on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The Green Bank Radio Telescope will also observe the carrier recovery tracks depending on availability. While the Arecibo Observatory is willing to assist, the Behind observatory is not in view until April 2016.
- The Failure Review Board's recommended faster frequency segmented acquisition sequence was tested with the Ahead observatory on day 272, September 29<sup>th</sup>. All 18 one kHz frequency steps were tested twice. While stepping down

through the 1 kHz segments, on segment #9 going down in frequency, the transponder locked to the BLF and accepted 9 no-op commands as expected. An interesting finding, but not unexpected, was that the transponder continued to follow the moving carrier and accept all commands sent for the remaining 27 segments.

- Testing of the DSN uplink arraying capability using the Ahead observatory continued on day 323, November 19<sup>th</sup>, with the 4<sup>th</sup> uplink array test successfully conducted for STEREO using DSS-26 and 25. The new configuration tested consisted of two 34m stations utilizing the 80 kW transmitter on DSS-26 and the 20 kW transmitter on DSS-25 with the HGA main lobe, riding along a one degree offset, with the MOC sending no-op commands. An approximately 3 dBm increase in received signal power was demonstrated when the DSS-25 uplink was phased to the DSS-26 uplink at the spacecraft with all 20 no-op commands being received correctly using the 7.8125 bps uplink rate. The 5<sup>th</sup> uplink array test is scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>, testing the use of three 34m stations using the 80 kW and two 20 kW transmitters with the HGA main lobe. When the uplink array capability is ready, it will be used to increase the spacecraft received signal power to assist with Behind recovery commanding.
- With time the spacecraft range improves RF communications and the ability for other assets to acquire data on Behind. While the STEREO RF link was not designed to be closed beyond 2 AU, as the Earth range is now decreasing, the LGA uplink margin returns to nominal, 6 dB for the 7.8 bps rate, in March 2016 and the LGA downlink margin returns to nominal, 3 dB for the 12 bps rate, in December 2016.

Significant findings to date:

1. Analysis of the three DSN extracted telemetry frames from the carrier signal just before the planned observatory reset/anomaly occurred on day 2014-274, October 1<sup>st</sup>, showed nominal performance of the spacecraft, i.e., no anomalies, IMU off, and the star tracker providing an attitude solution.
2. Post reset, from the very limited telemetry, three packets, extracted from the carrier signal by the DSN, the X-axis gyro on IMU-A had failed. Unfortunately, this telemetry contained only G&C anomaly data and no spacecraft summary

data, i.e., the state of the RF, G&C, fault protection and other subsystems is not known at the time of the anomaly. With a failed IMU and the star tracker being off-line for an undetermined duration, the sun sensors will keep the observatory pointed at the Sun, though the G&C will not have any roll knowledge, and cannot roll the observatory as part of the safing configuration to re-establish communications on the LGAs. From analysis of this telemetry and initial G&C simulations, it is highly suspected that the observatory is rotating about the principal axis of inertia due to an autonomous momentum dump initiated by biased gyro data flagged good by the IMU, but this has not yet been confirmed.

3. At least two anomalies occurred post reset, the star tracker not promoting to AAD mode and the X-axis gyro failure. Unfortunately, due to the number of possible combinations, the STEREO fault protection system is not designed for simultaneous failures.

Once communications are restored and the anomaly resolved, the Behind observatory will be returned to nominal science data collection as soon as it is safely possible.